Claims

1. A system for the construction of glass block walls, comprising an elongate, generally planar spacing strip of plastics material, having upper and lower surfaces forming an outer cross section generally corresponding in shape to the intended spacing between two adjacent blocks in the completed construction, the spacing strip having a generally hollow interior with relatively thin upper and lower walls.

2. The system according to claim1, wherein the spacing strip comprises a body portion having a first thickness and having a centrally disposed elongate channel on upper and lower surfaces thereof, and flange portions having a second thickness less than the first thickness, the flange portions extending laterally from the body portion.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein the flange portions are at least partially hollow.

4. The system according to any preceding claim, wherein the hollow interior is provided with transverse reinforcing webs between the upper and lower walls.

5. The system according to any preceding claim, wherein the spacing strip is formed from polystyrene or a styrene based copolymer.

6. The system according to any preceding claim, further comprising an adhesive for adhesion between the spacing strip and a glass block.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein the adhesive is a one-component polymer adhesive that hardens by evaporation of a solvent.

8. The system according to claim 6 or claim 7, wherein the adhesive comprises a polymer or copolymer or block (co) polymer having aliphatic or styrenic groups which compatibilise the polymer with styrene.

9. The system according to any of claims 6 to 8, wherein the adhesive contains a methylcyclohexane based solvent.

10. The system according to any of claims 6 to 8, wherein the adhesive is applied to the spacing strip or the glass block during manufacture.

11. The system according to claim 10 further comprising a removable protective layer covering the adhesive prior to use.

12. A glass block structure comprising a plurality of glass blocks arranged adjacent to one another and elongate, generally planar spacing strips of plastics material located between the adjacent glass blocks, the glass blocks having a profile on their adjacent surfaces and the spacing strips having first and second surfaces generally corresponding in shape to the profile of the glass blocks, the glass block structure further comprising a quantity of one component polymer adhesive adhering the spacing strips and glass blocks together.

13. The structure according to claim 12, wherein the spacing strips comprise a body portion having a first thickness and having a centrally disposed elongate channel on upper and lower surfaces thereof, and flange portions having a second thickness less than the first thickness, the flange portions extending laterally from the body portion.

14. The structure according to claim 13, wherein the flange portions are at least partially hollow.

15. The structure according to any of claims 12 to 14, wherein the spacing strips comprise a hollow interior provided with transverse reinforcing webs.

16. The structure according to any of claims 12 to 15, wherein the spacing strip is formed from polystyrene or a styrene based copolymer.

17. The structure according to claim 16, wherein the adhesive comprises a polymer or copolymer or block (co) polymer having aliphatic or styrenic groups which compatibilise the polymer with styrene.

18. A method of constructing a glass block wall using a system according to claim 10, the method comprising:

placing a first course of glass blocks;

removing a protective layer from the adhesive on a first side of the spacing strip;

placing the spacing strip on the first course of blocks;

removing a protective layer from the adhesive on a second side of the spacing strip; and

placing a further course of blocks on top of the spacing strip.

19. The method according to claim 18 further comprising placing individual lengths of spacing strip between adjacent blocks on the same course.

20. The method according to claim 18 or claim 19 further comprising grouting the joint between adjacent blocks.